

The Daily Charge

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Telling the MND-Baghdad Story

Tuesday, June 19, 2007



(Photo by Staff Sgt. Jon Cupp, 1-1 Cav. Div. Public Affairs)

Lt. Gen. Raymond Odierno (second from left), commanding general, Multi-National Corps-Iraq, confers with Bambi Arellano (left), the Iraq mission director for the U.S. Agency for International Development with Maj. Gen. Joseph F. Fil, Jr., commanding general Multi-National Division-Baghdad, and Brig. Gen. Vincent Brooks, deputy commanding at Camp Taji, Iraq June 13.

Ironhorse Brigade's Joint Common Plan to Deliver Lasting Solutions to Locals

By Staff Sgt. Jon Cupp
1-1 Cav. Div. Public Affairs

CAMP TAJI, Iraq - Helping Iraqis to help themselves has been a common theme running through many of the reconstruction efforts currently being pursued by Coalition Forces as they work with the Iraqi government.

A new way ahead for reconstruction being outlined by the 1st "Ironhorse"

Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division follows this line of thinking with helping the Iraqi government to become self-reliant as it works to transition to becoming a fully independent democracy.

Recently, the brigade completed the joint common plan (JCP) that it has been working on in coordination with local Iraqi

See Joint Planning Page 5

Baghdad in Brief

Soldiers Seize 15 Suspects

CAMP TAJI, Iraq - Multi-National Division - Baghdad Soldiers detained nine suspects June 17 near Sab Al Bor, Iraq, possibly connected to an improvised explosive device attack the previous day.

During a mounted patrol, Soldiers from Troop B, 1st "Garryowen" Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, identified a vehicle possibly linked to the attack. After questioning the vehicle's occupants, the Soldiers searched a nearby location and conducted a search. During the search, the Soldiers found a few bomb-making components and one AK-47 assault rifle. Nine individuals were detained in the operation.

Also, during a cordon and search in Abu Saida, Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, working from tips, found and detained six men, suspected of recent IED attacks on civilians, Iraqi Security Forces and Coalition Forces in the area.

All the suspects are being held for further questioning.



(Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kap Kim, 2-1 Cav. Div. Public Affairs)

Soldiers Sit Down with a Senator

Sgt. Orlando Lang (left), 1st Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment, and Staff Sgt. Keith Bolden, of the 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division speak with Sen. Thomas Carper of Delaware during his visit to Forward Operating Base Prosperity in central Baghdad June 17.

Troops Aid Iraqi Man After Bomb Rocks Al Sumalat

By Staff Sgt. Jon Cupp
1-1 Cav. Div. Public Affairs

CAMP TAJI, Iraq -- Multi-National Division-Baghdad Soldiers came to the aid of an Iraqi man after an improvised explosive device detonated in the driveway of a house near Al Sumalat, Iraq June 17.

After hearing an explosion, Soldiers from Company B, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment saw a damaged vehicle with three passengers pull up to their patrol base. The occupants explained that they had just struck an IED at a nearby house and that one of the passengers had been wounded.

The Soldiers immediately offered medical assistance to the man. He was treated on-site for a head wound, observed and later released.

Upon investigation of the house, Soldiers from Co. B confirmed that the house was one which terrorists had previously attempted to destroy several weeks earlier. Iraqi Security Forces are currently investigating to find those responsible for the IED attack.



(Photos by Sgt. Mike Pryor, 2-82 Abn. Div. Public Affairs)



Good Samaritans

Above: (Left to right) Pfc. Sean "Doc" Lawson of Tyler, Texas; Staff Sgt. Rick Hamblin of Tempe, Ariz.; and Pfc. Michael Blair give first aid to an Iraqi man after a motorcycle accident knocked him unconscious June 17. The Soldiers, who are with Company C, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, were on patrol in Baghdad's Adhamiyah District when they witnessed the accident and ran to help. Left: Staff Sgt. Rick Hamblin of Tempe, Ariz., wraps a bandage around the head of an Iraqi man who had been knocked unconscious in a motorcycle accident.

Arabic Phrase of the Day

ilaa

**Defined:
treatment**

Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today

High: 113
Low: 83



Tomorrow

High: 114
Low: 83



Thursday

High: 113
Low: 84

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Rite of Passage:

Cold Steel, Lobo Aviation Troops Join Elite NCO Corps

**By Sgt. 1st Class Rick Emert
1st ACB, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs**

TAJI, Iraq - Just because troops are deployed to Iraq doesn't mean they have to buck tradition.

In two ceremonies hosted by the 615th Aviation Support Battalion "Cold Steel" and 2nd "Lobo" Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment - both from 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division - 50 new sergeants were inducted into the Noncommissioned Officer Corps in traditional fashion.

"You are that leadership."

In the June 14 Cold Steel ceremony, 32 new sergeants walked under crossed sabers held by 1st Sgt. Tim Johnson, Company B, and 1st Sgt. Joseph Bell, Company E from Milford, Ohio, and Jacksonville, Fla., respectively. The sergeants' supervisors stood and announced to the battalion's senior NCO, Dallas native Command Sgt. Maj. Glen Vela, that they sponsored the young NCO being inducted.

Afterward, each sergeant was presented with a certificate from Multi-National Division-Baghdad's senior noncommissioned officer, Command Sgt. Maj. Philip Johndrow. During the ceremony, all NCOs present sang the Army Song and recited the NCO Creed.

The new sergeants were impressed by the traditional induction ceremony.

"It is a great honor," said Sgt. Jenny Van Pelt, Company B, 615th ASB, a native of Utopia, Texas. "These ceremonies are

few and far between during deployments. A lot of people don't even know what an NCO induction ceremony is. Not every NCO can say that they were officially inducted into the NCO Corps."

The fact that the MND-B command sergeant major was on hand to welcome the new sergeants was the icing on the cake.

"I am honored that the division command sergeant major came," said Sgt. Vicente Ramirez, Company B, 615th ASB, a native of Los Angeles. "I had never met the division sergeant major before, so this is a day I will always remember."

During remarks at the ceremony, Johndrow told the new NCOs that, as sergeants, more would be expected of them.

"You cannot forget that ... Soldiers need leadership in order to be successful," Johndrow said. "You are that leadership. Our nation looks to men and women of honor and character, leaders who do not have to make excuses for their past or current actions; leaders who Soldiers want to emulate, to be looked upon as examples. Leadership is practiced, not so much in words as it is in attitudes and in actions."

He also told the young sergeants that their Soldiers would be watching and learning from their actions.

"Your Soldiers look up to you and learn from everything that you do. It is imperative that you set the good example for them at all times, and you lead them with the best of your abilities and make decisions not because they are easy, or because they are popular; you make them

because they are right," Johndrow said.

"What will you do with it?"

Eighteen Soldiers were inducted into the NCO Corps in the Lobos ceremony June 15.

The ceremony included a history of the noncommissioned officer, the induction and a recital of the NCO Creed. The guest speaker for the event was Multi-National Corps-Iraq's top NCO, Command Sgt. Maj. Neil Ciotola.

"It welcomed us into the NCO world," said Phoenix, Ariz., native Sgt. Theresa Daniels, a member of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2-227th. "It's an official welcome. Back in the rear, they don't do this as much. I think being out here in Iraq, it makes it more special."

"(It meant) being a part of something big, something the Army really makes a big deal about," said Sgt. Joshua Davis, Company D, 2-227th, from Greensboro, N.C.

Daniels said she was inspired by the Ciotola's words.

"(He said) that we make a difference," she said. "He said that by him being older and higher rank, he's going to be leaving the Army and we're new - we're fresh in the Army. We have to take what he says and take it in and learn from it."

In remarks during the ceremony, Ciotola told the new sergeants that NCOs are vital to the success of the U.S. Army.

"We noncommissioned officers are responsible for day-to-day operations," he said. "We are the ones. We wake the Army up; we put the Army to bed."

He charged the young NCOs to make the Army's future as successful as its past.

"When you peel this thing and you take this uniform off, it's all about making the grass grow as opposed to cutting it," he said. "This is all about lifting up the youth of our great nation and assuring and ensuring the relevancy, credibility and ability of this institution for years to come."

"It is the second day of the 233rd year of the American Army, and something wonderful has been born. That's you," Ciotola told the new NCOs. "What will you do with it?"



(Photo by Spc. Nathan Hoskins, 1st ACB, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs)

New noncommissioned officers from 2nd Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, recite the NCO Creed at an NCO induction ceremony June 15 at Camp Taji, Iraq.

Wedding From A Far, Another First Team First

By Sgt. Robert Strain
1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

FORT HOOD, Texas - "I do." Those two small words have been spoken throughout generations, marking the beginning of a new life for the couple who speaks them.

For one couple who spoke these words June 16 at the 1st Cavalry Division's headquarters building here, they reached not only across the generations, but across thousands of miles, as well.

First Team intelligence analyst and Sacramento, Calif., native Spc. Matthew Ludwig and Honolulu native Lilani Keikiaina tied the knot through a video teleconference ceremony broadcast from Fort Hood to Ludwig in Baghdad.

Ludwig and Keikiaina have been together for two years, first meeting each other at the intelligence school at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., in 2005, Keikiaina said.

She explained that she was at a doctor's appointment at the hospital on Fort Huachuca, and Ludwig was the driver sent to pick her up.

"I asked him if he was my coachman, picking me up with the white chariot," Keikiaina laughed, referring to the white vans driven by unit duty drivers.

After that they started getting to know each other and soon became best friends, but it wasn't until after their training at Fort Huachuca that the couple started dating each other.

Keikiaina was stationed with the 201st Military Intelligence Battalion at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, and Ludwig was stationed with the First Team here.

"So, he started coming



(Photos by Sgt. Robert Strain, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs)

Two video teleconference screens show Lilani Keikiaina (left), and Spc. Matthew Ludwig during their wedding ceremony June 16 at Fort Hood, Texas.



Corina Keikiaina, 13, shoves a piece of wedding cake in her mother Lilani's mouth after the wedding ceremony.

down [to San Antonio] on the weekends, and I would come up here and visit him," she said.

During that time, Ludwig got to know Keikiaina's two daughters Corina, 13, and Cierra, 7.

Keikiaina explained that they had planned on waiting until after he returned from Iraq to get married, but when the extension was announced they decided to go ahead and do it now.

For Ludwig, June 16 holds a very special meaning. This year would mark his grandparents' 51st wedding anniversary. Unfortunately, they both passed away before realizing their dream of seeing their grandchildren get married, Keikiaina said.

They even went ahead and bought wedding gifts for all their grandchildren when they did get married.

In return to honor his

grandparents, Ludwig always wanted to get married on the 16th of June.

With Keikiaina's two children and the difference in time between Texas and Baghdad meant that when the couple got married, it meant that Ludwig also became a father on Father's Day there in Baghdad.

Keikiaina described the ceremony as bittersweet. She was glad to see Ludwig, who she hadn't seen since his rest and recuperation leave in February, but at the same time he was still thousands of miles away.

The ceremony, which was brought together by the efforts of the family readiness group of the division's intelligence section, had started out as a small ceremony using webcams at the house of Mandi

Stai, the section's FRG leader.

Keikiaina is a Solider now, but will be making the transition to civilian later this summer when she gets out of the Army.

"I wanted to make sure I was a part of helping her through that transition [from Soldier to spouse]. She didn't have access to all of the stuff that we had, she didn't have the webcam, she doesn't have the FRG support, she didn't have anything," Stai said.

The FRG wanted to ensure that Keikiaina was welcomed into the First Team family properly.

"We just kind of thought that it's tough enough starting out with being apart," said Molly Kaufman, an FRG member and one of the coordinators of the wedding.

"If there's a way that we as a family readiness group and as a rear detachment rear command can make a family's life a little bit easier for something special like this, then we're going to do whatever we can," Kaufman said.

After vows were exchanged and the ceremony was complete, the newlyweds were given time to talk to each other using the VTC, although Keikiaina said there wasn't much to tell each other - other than "I love you."

As a final surprise to the newlyweds, the unit sponsor - Toyota of Killeen - donated a three-day honeymoon getaway for the couple at Lake Tahoe, Calif., in February, after he returns from Iraq.

The couple plans to renew their vows on their first anniversary next June 16 during a big ceremony with all their family and friends.

Ironhorse, Iraqi Government Build the Future

Joint Planning

From Page 1

governments within the Nahias and Qadas in its area of operations and personnel from its Embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team (EPRT) to facilitate lasting solutions to reconstruction issues.

"The JCP essentially synchronizes in time and space the non-lethal deliverables that shape the counterinsurgency fight. Identifying goals and objectives and aligning specific programs available from the U.S. State Department and the U.S. Agency for International Development to help meet those goals," said Lt. Col. Peter Andrysiak, deputy commanding officer, 1st BCT. "The whole plan is based on getting the Iraqi government involved in transition from relying on coalition forces to self reliance on the part of the Iraqi people by focusing on building indigenous capabilities and capacities.

"The plan is designed to outlive our deployment," added Andrysiak, noting that whoever relieves the Ironhorse Brigade will simply be able to pick up where they left off. "There shouldn't be a major 180-degree deviation and the plan marks the transition from where the State Department and civilian agencies will be able to pick up the fight, since this is something (negotiating and assisting developing nations) they do on a day to day basis all over the world."

The main focus areas of the plan will be the responsibility of the EPRT, with supporting roles from 1BCT's military side of the house, and include the areas of general government,

local services and economics.

Government Transition Teams working through the brigade's EPRT, will advise local Iraqi governments in governance much the same way as Military Transition Teams have assisted the Iraqi Army with mentorship and training programs, according to Andrysiak. The GTT will coach government leaders in train the trainer type senior leader mentorship programs sponsored by USAID. The goals of the programs are not to tell Iraqis how to run their government, but rather assist them with advice in the basic concepts of governance, said Andrysiak.

"It's about getting the local Iraqi government to operate within it's defined structure, a mayor for administrative functions, a council to perform policy-making and legislative functions and a technical department for essential services delivery," said Andrysiak. "As they begin operating within this political structure, then we introduce the USAID programs to help facilitate the process."

The local governments have already been making progress.

"They're getting a better understanding of the political structure, how they're supposed to operate, and they understand they have to start delivering on their own," added Andrysiak. "They see that we're here to help them. They also understand that they can do this with very little help from us."

For local services, the goal is to eventually have a transition from partial coalition forces reliance to the local governments being able to deliver services such as public safety, public works,

"We need to not feel the urge to do everything for the Iraqi government, success now is seeing them do it on their own."

**Lt. Col. Peter Andrysiak, deputy commanding officer
1st Brigade "Ironhorse" Combat Team**

health, fuel and education to the local Iraqi populace.

To facilitate their ability to provide these services, the government leaders will also learn, through senior leader mentorship programs, the processes of staffing and equipping for facilities such as hospitals, schools and emergency services departments to include fire stations among others.

In several areas the local Iraqi governments have been stepping up to the plate when it comes to sustaining services for their constituents, according to Andrysiak.

"In the past, most if not all problems were solved by coalition forces, now they are beginning to repair some of the infrastructure on their own," said Andrysiak, citing the examples of the local governments taking the initiative to repair downed power lines from IED strikes and fixing broken water lines. Most recently, they even started funding and contracting renovations of key infrastructure, according to Andrysiak.

Within the economic focus area, the goal is to create an environment that fosters small business opportunities and growth as well as employment opportunities with a focus on long-term employment. Some of the things currently in the works for the Ironhorse area of operations are micro-business mentorship programs, agricultural busi-

ness programs and partnerships for farmers. There will also be efforts to revitalize pre-existing state-owned enterprises to include steel factories, a furniture factory and other initiatives that will stimulate the local economies.

Bringing to bear the capabilities the EPRT has to offer to include the State Department and USAID programs, the JCP will mark a change in the way reconstruction efforts have gone forward in the past, and Andrysiak said he feels positive about the plan.

"Changing our business processes on reconstruction will never be fast enough, and it won't happen overnight," said Andrysiak. "It is a direction in which we need to go, and we feel optimistic about it."

"We need to not feel the urge to do everything for the Iraqi government, success now is seeing them do it on their own," he added.

The Ironhorse Brigade unveiled their newly completed JCP to Lt. Gen. Raymond Odierno, commanding general, Multi-National Corps-Iraq and III Corps, during a meeting here June 13.

Within the coming weeks, the brigade will continue its work with local government officials in the two regional Qadas-Abu Ghraib and Taji-as well as the six Nahias within its area of operations to begin implementing the plan.